

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Claims 18, 25, 28, and 29 have been cancelled while preserving their right of reentry into this or any other appropriate application. No claims have been amended and no new claims have been added. Claims 1-16, 19-24, and 26-27 are now pending in the application and presented for reconsideration. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow.

1. Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-16, 19-24, 26, and 27 (Office Action dated 11/28/2007, ¶5 found at page 3).

2. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 112

In the Office Action, claims 18, 25, 28, and 29 the Examiner rejected claims 18, 25, 28, and 29 (i) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shaputis, U.S. Patent No. 4,068,106, and (ii) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Without admitting to the propriety of the rejections, Applicants herein cancel claims 18, 25, 28, and 29 while preserving their right of reentry into this or any other suitable application, obviating all such rejections.

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to the Examiner's statement of the allowability of claims 1-16, 19-24, 26, and 27 (Office Action dated 11/28/2007, ¶5 found at page 3), only allowed claims remain pending in this Application, whereby a Notice of Allowance is believed proper at this time. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests such Notice of Allowance.

No fee is believed due at this time. However, should any fees be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite the submission of a Notice of Allowance in this application.

Respectively submitted,



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